[17306/106]

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventor(s) : Richard J. DIBBS

Serial No. : To Be Assigned

Filed : Herewith

For : EGG HANDLING PASTEURIZATION APPARATUS AND

METHOD

Examiner : To Be Assigned

Art Unit : To Be Assigned

Mail Stop Patent Application Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

SIR:

Kindly amend the above-identified application before examination, as set forth below.

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

On page 1, please delete the section beginning on line 1, captioned "<u>CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS</u>" and replace such deleted section with the following replacement section:

--CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

The present application is a division of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/210,430, filed on August 1, 2002, which claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 60/323,326, filed on September 20, 2001, each of which is expressly incorporated herein in its entirety by reference thereto.

The present application is related to U.S. Patent Application Serial No. ______, entitled "Egg Handling Pasteurization Apparatus and Method," bearing Attorney Docket No. 17306/107, filed on the even date herewith, which is expressly incorporated herein in its entirety by reference thereto and which is a division of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/210,430, filed on August 1, 2002, which claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 60/323,326, filed on September 20, 2001.--.